

FOIA REQUEST

5/23/18

TO:

Environmental Protection Agency
Sub-Agency: Headquarters

FROM:

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Processing Fees
√ Will Pay Up To :\$ 25.00

REQUEST:

1. A list, by reference to name and organizational affiliation, of individual members of the press or reporters who were denied permission to be present at a session of event on 5/22/2018 at EPA headquarters regarding the impact of certain toxic chemicals on drinking water, as reported by The New York Times on 5/23/18, p. B6 (national edition), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/22/business/reporters-epa-event.html>.
2. A list, by reference to name and organizational affiliation, of individual members of the press or reporters who were granted permission to be present at any session of event on 5/22/2018 at EPA headquarters regarding the impact of certain toxic chemicals on drinking water, in which any members of the press were denied admission.
3. Documents evidencing communications (i) within EPA or (ii) between (a) EPA and (b) any other agency or office of the Executive Branch including the White House, including but not limited to communications participated in by one Jahan Wilcox, concerning the admission of members of the press or reporters to the event referred to in 1 or 2 above.

Request a Fee Waiver
Make Request ?No
Request Expedited Handling
Make Request ?No

Supporting File is set forth below.

Attached File	Type	Size (MB)
<i>Three Reporters Are Turned Away From an E.P.A. Event - The New York Times.pdf</i>	PDF	0.04

√ Agree to [*Privacy Act Statement*](#). I have read the Privacy Act Statement and agree to the terms set forth.

√ Affirmation. Pursuant to 28 USC § 1746, I declare and affirm that under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that all of the foregoing information, statements, and signatures submitted in connection with this request and in any supporting documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

P.S.

THE FOLLOWING APPEARED WHEN I HIT SUBMIT:

Error

An unexpected error has occurred in the FOIAonline application. Prior to contacting the Help Desk, please log out and perform the function again. If this issue persists then contact the Help Desk with a description of the steps taken which lead to the unexpected error.

Error date and time: 2018-05-23 13:11:39

Error message: [DM_OBJ_MGR_E_VERSION_MISMATCH]error: "save of object 000004d280004e6e of type foia_ref_sequence failed because of version mismatch: old version was 7,940"

Error location: RefDataManager:787

By Coral Davenport and Jaclyn Peiser

May 22, 2018

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday barred reporters from three news organizations from an event on the impact of toxic chemicals on drinking water at the agency’s headquarters.

The event, during which the E.P.A. administrator Scott Pruitt declared that addressing the impact of a class of man-made chemicals was a “national priority,” came at a time when Mr. Pruitt is the subject of at least 12 federal investigations.

Among those denied entry from the morning session of the planned two-day event was a reporter from The Associated Press, Ellen Knickmeyer. When she requested to speak to an E.P.A. public affairs official, she was “grabbed by the shoulders and shoved out of the building by a security guard,” according to a report from the wire service.

Also turned away were Corbin Hiar, a reporter for E & E News, and Rene Marsh, of CNN, along with a camera operator and a producer from the cable network.

Since taking office last spring, he has won praise from President Trump and criticism from environmentalists for trying to ease regulations on industry, including safety rules on hazardous chemicals. He has also faced criticism for operating in secrecy. Unlike his predecessors, Mr. Pruitt does not publish a daily appointment calendar, and the E.P.A. has shut down more than 1,900 web pages on topics like climate change during his tenure.

Last month, when Mr. Pruitt was set to unveil a new initiative — the proposed rollback of a climate-change regulation on vehicle tailpipe emissions — the E.P.A. failed to provide details on where the announcement would take place. After reporters learned that the agency planned to hold the event at an auto dealership in Virginia, the E.P.A. canceled, and Mr. Pruitt ended up speaking at a hastily arranged gathering in a private room at the agency’s headquarters.

Mr. Pruitt has said before Congress that his penchant for secrecy and first-class travel was warranted because of threats on his safety.

Tuesday's event on toxic chemicals appeared to be an effort to counter recent criticism of Mr. Pruitt and his policies, which critics say have been shaped by the industries regulated by the E.P.A. The agency invited several environmental groups to the event, in addition to reporters from select news organizations.

"With more than 200 people in the room from across the country, it's clear that this issue is a national priority," Mr. Pruitt said.

He went on to note the history of polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl chemicals, which are widely used in products ranging from nonstick pans to firefighting foam.

"As we've used those chemicals over the course of many decades, there are concerns across the country about those chemicals getting into the environment and impacting communities in an adverse way," Mr. Pruitt said.

Coral Davenport reported from Washington, and Jaclyn Peiser from New York. Sheila Kaplan contributed reporting.

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